(b) whether Government are aware that the prices of these items have crashed and if so, whether NAFED propose to intervene to save farmers from distress sale of their produce; and

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has appealed to the Central Government for enhancing export quota of onions over and above the quota already allocated to GAIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Government is considering fixation of minimum support price for copra. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to fix minimum support price for onion and potatoes.

(b) During the year 1988-89, on account of substantial increase in production, the wholesale prices of coconut, onion and potatoes have come down from the high levels that prevailed in 1987-88. With a view to arrest the further fall in prices and save the farmers from distress sale, NAFED is making purchase of potatoes in U.P. and that of onions in Maharashtra.

(c) No, Sir.

Production of Oilseeds

557. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the oilseeds production during 1988-89;

(b) how does it compare with the projections; and

(c) the reasons for variation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) According to present assessments, the likely production of total oilseeds in the country during 1988-89 is expected to be around 16 million tonnes as against the target of 15.65 million tonnes.

(c) Higher production of oilseeds during 1988-89 has been possible on account of increase in area and productivity as a result of better management of input supply and adoption of improved technology by farmers under National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP), and overall excellent monsoon.

Funds Released and spent under NREP & RLEGP in Rajasthan

558. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released and spent under the NREP and RLEGP for the State of Rajasthan during the last three financial years;

(b) the rates of wages fixed and paid to the workers engaged under both the programmes during the same period; and

(c) the number of families covered under both these schemes during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The position of resources released and utilised in Rajasthan under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during the last 3 years is as under:—